

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (currently amended) Protective tube (1) configured so that contracting a length of the tube with a force allows expansion of a section of the tube, to allow introduction of cables and similar items and release of the force causes the tube to return toward its original section upon removal of the force, the tube comprising:

a plurality of threads (2) which are braided, knit-braided, or knitted to one another, characterised in that the thickness of the cross section of the threads (2) along a first axis is substantially greater than the thickness of said cross section along a second axis which is perpendicular to the first; and

the plurality of threads having a rectangular, oval or polygonal cross-section.

2. . . (previously presented) Tube (1) according to claim 1, characterised in that the thickness of the cross section of the first axis is at least 1.5 times greater than the thickness of said cross section of the second axis which is perpendicular to the first.

3. (original) Tube (1) according to claims 1 or 2, characterised in that said threads (2) are made from a polymeric material.

4. (original) Tube (1) according to claim 3, characterised in that said polymeric material is polyamide.

5. (original) Tube (1) according to claim 3, characterised in that said polymeric material is polyester.

6. (original) Tube (1) according to claim 3, characterised in that said polymeric material is polypropylene.

7. (original) Tube (1) according to claim 3, characterised in that said polymeric material is polyethylene.

8. (previously presented) Tube (1) according to claim 3, characterised in that said polymeric material is phenylene polysulphide.

9. (new) Tube (1) according to claim 3, characterised in that the thickness of the threads (2) and the braided, knit-braided, or knitted configuration the protective tube exhibits a superficial cover factor K of not less than 80% as defined by Volvo Standard 7821.2.

10. (new) Tube (1) according to claim 1, characterised in that the thickness of the threads (2) and the braided, knit-braided, or knitted configuration the protective tube exhibits a superficial cover factor K of not less than 80%, according to the formula:

$$M=100 \bullet (2 \bullet F - F^2)\%$$

in which

$$F = (N \bullet P \bullet d) / (25 \bullet \sin \alpha) y$$

where:

F = fill factor,

N = number of monofilament threads per coil,

P = number of crosses per 25 mm,

d = diameter of monofilament in mm,

$\alpha$  = braiding angle in degrees in regard to the longitudinal axis,

D = diameter situated on the inside of the braiding in mm, and

C = number of machine coils to be braided.

11. (new) Protective tube (1) for covering a protected bundle of cables and similar items, the tube comprising a plurality of monofilament threads (2) which are braided, knit-braided, or knitted threads (2), characterised in that:

the threads (2) have a thickness of a cross section of the threads (2) along a first axis substantially greater than a thickness of said cross section along a second axis perpendicular to the first axis; and

the cross sections of the threads (2) and the braiding, knit-braiding or knitting protective tube exhibits a superficial cover factor K of not less than 80% as defined by Volvo Standard 7821.2.

12. (new) Tube (1) according to claim 11, characterised in that:

the tube has a thickness of the cross section of the first axis at least 1.5 times greater than the thickness of said cross section of the second axis perpendicular to the first; and

said threads (2) are made from a polymeric material.

13. (new) Tube (1) according to claim 12, characterised in that:

the tube has a thickness of the cross section of the first axis at least 1.5 times greater than the thickness of said cross section of the second axis perpendicular to the first.